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TITLE: Deployment- Related Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI): Incidence Natural History and Predictors of Recovery in Soldiers Returning from OIF/OEF

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Introduction

The overarching aim of this study is to describe the epidemiology, natural history, and prognostic predictors of mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) in a well- defined cohort of recently- deployed soldiers at Fort Carson and Fort Bragg. This study will augment the ongoing surveillance and clinical efforts at these locations by expanding the post- deployment assessment of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and TBI- related exposures; identifying pre-existing and deployment- related exposures and comorbid conditions that may influence the risk or prognosis of mTBI-related sequelae; and re- assessing this cohort at three, six, and twelve months after deployment with the aim of determining the persistence of post-deployment symptoms and the degree to which these symptoms impact on military or civilian employment, including fitness for military duty, functional status, and quality of life.

Body

Award W81XWH-08-2-0105 was issued to the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine (HJF), effective 1 May 2008. The protocol review process is in its final stages. It was pre-reviewed by HRPO in February 2009 and HRPO recommendations were incorporated for review by local IRBs. The protocol for the Fort Bragg study site was approved by the WAMC IRB and CIRO on 22 April 2009. HJF signed a CRADA with CIRO on 12 May 2009 for the WAMC protocol. Final approval to start the study at Fort Bragg is expected from the WAMC IRB at any time. The protocol for the Fort Carson study site was approved by the BAMC IRB on 1 April 2009 contingent upon minor clarifications. These clarifications have been made and the protocol has been resubmitted to the BAMC IRB for review by CIRO.

Key Accomplishments

- All Quarterly Reports submitted on schedule, per (award) terms and conditions.
- Protocol for the Fort Bragg study site approved by local IRB and CIRO on 22 April 2009
- CRADA between HJF and CIRO signed on 12 May 2009 for the Fort Bragg protocol
- Protocol for the Fort Carson study site approved by local IRB on 1 April 2009 pending minor clarifications which have been made and resubmitted

Reportable Outcomes

No research findings are available at this time.

Conclusion

The following is a summary of key administrative/management actions during the reporting period:

- Award W81XWH-08-2-0105 issued to HJF, effective 1 May 2008.
- Staff required for the study at Fort Bragg have been hired and trained
- Recruitment of study staff at Fort Carson is currently underway

References

N/A at this time

Appendices

N/A at this time

Supporting Data

N/A at this time